GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2669
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2006
EXIT POLL
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether opinion polls influence the minds of the electors when the polls are staggered on different dates;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any effective plan for framing an adequate law banning the exit poll when polls stagger over different dates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a): It is very difficult to express an opinion with any degree of accuracy as to whether opinion polls influence the minds of the electors when the polls are staggered on different dates.

(b) to (d): InWrit Petition (Civil) No.207 of 2004 (Shri D.K.Thakur vs. Union of India and two others)in the Hon`ble Supreme Court, direction has been sought for by the petitioner to enforce all necessary norms for regulating and, if necessary, banning opinion polls and exit polls to be published and broadcasted in the print or electronic media, particularly at the time when the elections to the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are in progress. The matter is sub-judice. Further, the entire matter of electoral reforms, which inter alia, includes the opinion polls is under examination of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.